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BRIEFS

DARYL KHAN; ROCCO PARASCANDOLA; Curtis L. Taylor

August 2, 2005

LOVE TRIANGLE TURNS DEADLY. It all began yesterday morning at a rollerskating rink in the Bronx with the promise of a late-night dinner and a reconciliation. Eleven bullets and a few hours later, it ended in Brooklyn with a man dead and his killer wishing he could join him.

A love triangle had devolved into a killing, a brief hostage situation, a police shooting and an attempted suicide, police said.

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Here is what happened, according to police sources:

Just before 1 a.m. at the Skate Key Skate and Dance Family Center in the Bronx, Shabazz Muhammad, 27, and his girlfriend Timecca Lee had a chance encounter with Jermaine Barrett, 33, Lee's ex-boyfriend. Barrett, who still had feelings for Lee, was angry and the three quickly became embroiled in a heated argument. They agreed to sit down and hash out their differences over dinner at Junior's, the Brooklyn diner.

Lee and Muhammad drove in their Lincoln Navigator, and Barrett climbed on to his motorcycle with the intention of meeting at the restaurant.

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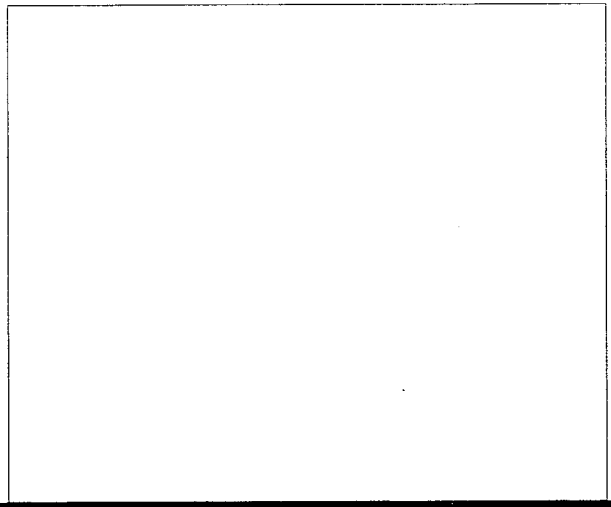
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the head.

Charges are pending against Barrett, who was listed in serious but stable condition last.

- DARYL KHAN

POLICE: FAILED ROBBERY ENDS IN SHOOTING. A botched robbery of a marijuana dealer ended in murder on an Elmhurst street, police said yesterday.

Ron Casta, 18, died after a bullet intended for Bryan Mantique, 19, hit Mantique, then exited his body and struck Casta at 8:40 p.m. Sunday at Hampton Street and Britton Avenue, police said.

Police sources said Casta and some friends grabbed Mantique, from whom they buy marijuana. Casta, of Ozone Park, grabbed Mantique in a bear hug and a friend opened fire.

Casta died at Elmhurst Hospital. Mantique took a cab to the same hospital and was admitted in stable condition.

One person was arrested. His name was not released.

- ROCCO PARASCANDOLA

SPRAYING IN ROCKAWAYS. The city will spray Anvil to combat the West Nile virus tomorrow through Friday in the Rockaways, the Health Department said.

Spraying will be from 8:15 p.m. to 6 a.m. in:

Arverne/Somerville bounded by Grass Hassock Channel and Beach 65th Street and De Costa Avenue to the north; Beach 75th Street to the west; Beach Channel Drive and Arverne Boulevard and Rockaway Beach Boulevard to the south; and Beach 54th Street to the east.

Edgemere bounded by Alameda Avenue, Conch Basin and Norton Basin to the north; Beach 54th Street to the west;

On the way, Barrett called and suggested they meet at Washington Avenue and Lefferts Boulevard in Flatbush.

When they got there, Barrett pulled out a .357 Magnum and unloaded it into Muhammad. He turned the empty gun at Lee and pulled the trigger a couple more times. He then walked back to his cycle and pulled out a 9-mm handgun. He walked over to Muhammad, who was on the ground, and fired a shot in his left eye. He was dead at the scene.

When police arrived, Barrett had Lee in a headlock with the gun pointed at her head, screaming that he was going to shoot her. He then shoved the woman at a cop, who was unable to fire. The others did, three times, striking Barrett in the right knee and left side.

After he was shot, Barrett pointed the gun at his chest and fired. On the way to King's County Hospital Center, Barrett expressed regret that he didn't shoot himself in

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Norton Drive to the east; and Rockaway Beach Boulevard to the south.

Bayswater bounded by Norton Avenue and Norton Basin to the west; Mott Basin to the north; Dickens Street to the east; and Beach Channel Drive to the south. Edgemere Park and Landfill will also be sprayed.

- Curtis L. Taylor

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